(c) whether Government is contemplating any scheme of Public Distribution System which would serve their poverty justifiably; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) For allocation of foodgrains under TPDS, the accepted number of BPL families (including AAY), based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimate of Registrar General of India, is 6.52 crores. However, the State & UT Governments have issued 10.28 crore BPL & AAY ration cards. Thus the BPL & AAY cards are more by 3.76 crores. The Government got Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) evaluated by Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission and ORG MARG. Their reports received in 2005 pointed out high levels of exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of eligible BPL families and diversion of foodgrains.

In cases of exclusion errors, eligible BPL and Antyodaya families were not categorized as such. In cases of inclusion errors, ineligible families were found to have been categorized as BPL and Antyodaya households.

To strengthen TPDS by eliminating exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of eligible BPL and AAY families and by eliminating leakages and diversions of foodgrains, a nine-point Action Plan was evolved. This is under implementation by State and UT Governments. As part of this Action Plan and as stipulated under the PDS (Control) Order, 2001, the State Governments have been directed to continuously review BPL and AAY lists so as to eliminate the APL families wrongly categorized as BPL and Antyodaya families and to include the genuine BPL and AAY families which might have been excluded while preparing the lists. This is a continuous process and is expected to result in inclusion of genuine poor in the lists of BPL and Antyodaya families which might have been wrongly categorized as APL. This will result in proper targeting of the poor families so that they get the benefits meant for BPL and AAY categories.

Import of wheat

3430. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that targeted foodgrains production is more than its demand; and

(b) if so, the reasons why Government is importing wheat at a higher rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation have informed that the estimates of production of foodgrains and its demand for the country during the year 2007-08 are as below:—

(in Million Tonnes)

Estimated production of foodgrains*	Demand of foodgrains
227.32	214.03

*As per 3rd Advance Estimate.

(b) Procurement of wheat by Government agencies for the Central Pool during KMS 2006-07 and 2007-08 was only 92.3 and 111.3 lakh tonnes respectively against the estimated requirement of 150 lakh tonnes of wheat for TPDS and other welfare schemes. To make up the shortfall, the Government took decisions to import 55 and 18 lakh tonnes of wheat in 2007-08.

Procurement and import of wheat

3431. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many tonnes of wheat were collected directly from farmers to build stock piles in the country in the last two years;

(b) what is the price paid per quintal to farmers;

(c) how many tonnes of wheat were imported in the last two years; and

(d) what is the price paid per quintal alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) 92.3 lakh tonnes and 111.3 lakh tonnes of wheat were procured by the Government agencies (FCI and State agencies) for the Central Pool in RMS 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

(b) Procurement price (MSP plus bonus) paid to the farmers for wheat procured during RMS 2006-07 and 2007-08 were Rs. 700/- (MSP of Rs. 650 plus bonus of Rs. 50/- per quintal) and Rs.850 (MSP of Rs.750/- plus bonus of Rs.100/- per quintal) per quintal respectively.

(c) and (d) During 2006-07, orders were placed for import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat on Government account. Out of this 53.79 lakh tonnes arrived in 2006-07 and 0.75 lakh tonnes in 2007-08 (total 54.54 lakh tonnes) at a weighted average price of US $ 204.656 per MT.

During 2007-08, orders were placed for import of 17.985 lakh tonnes of wheat on Government account out of which 17.69 lakh tonnes of wheat has arrived in the country at a weighted average price of US $ 372.818 per MT.

Abhijit Sen Committee

†3432. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to assess the role of rise in prices of agriproducts of future trading, Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Abhijit Sen;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the Committee was constituted;

(c) by when the Committee would submit its report;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi